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THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor

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#### Another Important Court Decision.

The decision of the Supreme Court in the National Cash Register case following hard upon the decision of the federal court in New Jersey in the case of the United States Steel Corporation lends strength to the hope and belief that harrising capital is at an end. Men engaged in business on a large scale by fair means for fair objects will be encouraged. Politicians, first creating and then playing upon popular prejudice respecting captains of industry, will be discouraged. A game which for a long time was prosecuted with great industry and which attracted wide attention seems about played out. At any rate, let us all hope it is.

It cannot be denied that the Sherman anti-trust law had warrant for existence, and has warrant for its continuation. There were trusts that needed curbing. There were captains of industry who abused their opportunities. The public had some just grievances.

But, as in all such matters, the movement for reform attracted men who had the public interests less in mind than their own. Muckrakers appeared, and muckraking became an industry. It might have become a monopoly except that the laborers were numerous and their lines of activity diverse. Men who could not have filled creditably a twelve-hundred-dollar clerkship in a manufacturing or mercantile establishment, and had no capital of their own, suddenly flowered into financial geniuses, able to show how the business of a continent should be conducted. Politicians whose sole stock in trade consisted of catch phrases for the stump, and who had no influence away from cross-roads, suddenly set up for constitutional lawyers and governmental guides.

For awhile these men thrived. Making their way into the limelight, they secured personal advertisement, and some of them obtained political advancement. It was a profitable thing for them while it lasted.

It was breaking down before the war came; and since then it has lost much strength. In the crisis of last summer, capital, singly and in combination, showed as much patriotism and as keen a desire to serve the country as any other agency. American financiers and bankers stood behind the government for all they were worth, both in money and credit; and the government consulted with them, and benefited from their suggestions.

The Sherman law has done some good. Its virtues were not at first discovered. For awhile it was almost a dead letter. Then the Department of Justice woke up, and found that there was a statute on the books capable when properly invoked of great public good; and it was invoked. Under it the government has won some cases and lost some, and the authors as well as the administrators of the law stand justified.

Reports that Germany entertained ideas of buying up the steel plants of America stopped just a little short of the extreme possibilities of imagination. A German syndicate to control all the real estate in America would have made the suggestion of supreme command of the country's resources even more impressive.

Reports that Villa cannot read or write are not upheld by the manner in which he seems to be informed of what is going on and the promptness with which he expresses himself.

It may be taken for granted that Huerta celebrated Flag day in a general but unostentatious manner at his home on Long Island.

#### Balkan Intervention Imminent.

Apparently the Greek elections have resulted in a victory for the party of Venizelos, which is known as the war party. Judging from the latest returns, there will be a heavy majority for Venizelos in the next parliament, which will necessitate the retirement of Gounaris, who some time ago succeeded Venizelos at the head of the government. Owing to the illness of the king and the possibility of postponement of the session, the newly elected parliament may not assemble until August, and consequently the decision for participation in the war, should such result from the expression of popular will, may be deferred for two months. Should the death of the king occur meanwhile, however, it is possible that Greece may, under the rulership of his son and successor and the premiership of Venizelos, enter the field of hostilities earlier.

Meanwhile a complication has seemingly arisen with respect to the relations between Greece and the Balkan states. A dispatch from Sofia states that an agreement

has been effected between Rumania and the powers of the quadruple entente opposed to Germany and Austria whereby certain requirements of Rumania are to be met in the event of her intervention. But Greece and Serbia, it is reported, are to send an identical note to the Bulgarian premier declining certain proposals of the quadruple entente for the cession of Macedonian territory to Bulgaria. Rumanian participation is in a measure dependent upon Bulgaria's action. The latter power has been strongly inclined toward the Teutonic cause, but recent accounts reported a disposition to intervene with the allies for a campaign against Turkey in consideration of the restoration of Rumania of territory along the Black sea, taken from Bulgaria in the settlement following the second Balkan war. With the decision at Athens for intervention as a result of the elections of Sunday, however, there is likely to be small difficulty on the part of the diplomats of the allies now at work in the Balkan capitals in securing the simultaneous entry of all three of these smaller powers into the war field as anti-Teutonic forces. Their accession to the allied ranks would undoubtedly be a serious blow to the German cause.

#### The Chicago Car Strike.

The Chicago car lines are tied up by a strike that involves 14,000 employees and affects several million people in their daily activities. The leaders of each side declare that the fight is to be waged to a finish. This is always the first announcement of those responsible for a situation of this character. Nobody, however, represents the public in these matters, and it is the public after all that pays the bill. The people who ordinarily patronize the cars and thereby give employment to the thousands of workers must walk when the strike is called, and are in danger of injury or death when riots occur, as they usually do occur in consequence of the efforts of the companies to run their cars. All the municipality does in such cases as a rule is to furnish a perfunctory sort of guard for the protection of the properties of the transportation companies.

Chicago's car strike will probably develop along the usual lines, with several days, and, perhaps, several weeks of public inconvenience and danger of disorder, followed by a settlement. These strikes are a reproach to our civilization. They represent a failure of government. With all the machinery for the settlement of differences between individuals afforded by the courts the disputes between labor and capital, which vitally affect the daily welfare of the people, are permitted to develop into veritable wars that cost enormous sums of money and are often destructive of life. If Chicago permits this strike to continue as have other tie-ups in big cities resulting from differences over wages and hours of employment it will stand self-condemned of a grievous failure in the functions of government.

#### Flag Day and Preparedness.

Standing out conspicuously in practically all the addresses delivered yesterday in different parts of the country in celebration of Flag day was the note of warning that the United States is inadequately prepared for the possibility of a foreign war. There is no jingoism in this sort of talk. It is the purest patriotism to arouse the country to a sense of its responsibilities and necessities. If this country is to be secure against attack by a strong power, if it is to be assured of successful defense in the emergency which as the European war plainly shows may arise at any time and with little warning, it must begin immediately to make ready by providing for a larger navy and by creating the skeleton foundation and the materials for a volunteer army capable of effective work in the national defense. Unless the flag that was honored yesterday by ceremonies throughout the country is to symbolize a helpless people, exposed to devastation by a foreign enemy, the duty of providing the bulwarks against invasion must be assumed without further delay.

Anti-vice supervisors continue to denounce "September Morn." But for this fact the picture might have been lost to attention as a cooling suggestion in hot weather.

If President Wilson succeeds in averting a serious military crisis, it looks as if the Nobel peace prize might naturally gravitate in his direction.

The management of the war in Europe has developed an interesting system of interlocking hostilities.

The open car has finally dissolved partnership with the grip germ.

#### Community Picnics.

That community spirit for which Commissioner Brownlow expressed an earnest wish in his address Saturday at the "al fresco" pleasure of the Mount Pleasant Citizens' Association in Rock Creek Park is likely to be best promoted by such neighborhood outings. Washington is ideally equipped for outdoor festivities of this character. It has many large and easily accessible parks, well distributed, to serve for such purposes. In no better way can the people become acquainted than at a picnic, with a few features of entertainment and with perhaps brief addresses by officials.

One of the most enjoyable features of the old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration was the picnic that marked the day, with games and

music and basket luncheons and oratory. The fireworks were purely an incidental feature. Most thoroughly enjoyed on such occasions were the contests for both children and adults, and everybody had a good time. Last Saturday afternoon the Mount Pleasant people, after weeks of effort, demonstrated the possibility of a real community picnic, utilizing for this purpose one of the most attractive tracts of land in the District, which might well serve for other gatherings of this character.

As Commissioner Brownlow said, the development of a community spirit is a slow growth, but there are materials here for creating it, and it is to be hoped that the various citizens' associations will follow the example set by that of Mount Pleasant and engage in outdoor assemblages so that at least once a year the people of each section of the capital will have an opportunity to become acquainted at a time of festivity and general enjoyment.

#### Faint, Poles and Flags.

Yesterday when the flags were flying from the public and private buildings in Washington in honor of the natal day of the national emblem the Post Office Department was without decoration of this character. It was afterward explained that this was due to the fact that the flagpoles on the building had been newly painted, and it was therefore impossible to hoist the Stars and Stripes. Would it not have been better management either to advance or to postpone the time of pole painting? Flag day is an annual occasion definitely scheduled and it would seem to be most inappropriate to put fresh paint on the staffs at the precise time when every public structure at the capital is supposed to make a particular display of bunting as an example to citizens.

South American merchants are accustomed to a system of long credits. No doubt there are many North Americans who would favor concessions in this respect that would modify general custom.

Though no longer the playground of Europe, Switzerland continues to take care of a large number of visitors from various parts of the surrounding map.

Italy and Austria have clinched with a determination that makes their combat stand out almost as an independent incident in the general fight.

Weather bureau bulletins are gradually working around to a point where experts who delight in "hot-test ever" records may cherish hopes.

In the summer, when cool, white materials are the most desirable, shortage of dyes has no terrors.

Some of the Mexican generals verge closely on a policy that is unfriendly but infirm.

The approach of every presidential campaign brings rumors of the formation of a new party.

Preparations for the Fourth of July no longer call for extra supplies of lint and arnica.

#### SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

#### A Fierce Theorist.

"How did Dr. Dernburg come to break into print?" asked the perpetual querist.

"I don't know," answered the inveterate punster. "I should say it was by some sort of Dernburgery."

#### Where's the Comet?

Oh, superstition gets a jar. That makes its grim adherents sigh. With war's fierce terror spread afar And not a comet in the sky!

#### A Slight Repressive Influence.

"Do you feel that your work is of any real benefit?"

"Yes," replied the censor. "While we cannot prevent war from being terrible, we are at least doing everything possible to render it uninteresting."

#### Persevering Conscience.

"They tell me you have signed the pledge?"

"Yes," replied Uncle Billy Bottletop. "And I'm goin' to keep on signin' it. Whatever happens, no one ain't goin' to be able to say my intentions wasn't good."

#### Peace.

There is no peace for him whose hours drift by In reckless pleasure or in heedless rest; Who sees no storm cloud on the mountain crest, And views alone the blue and placid sky. When loyal love is left to fade and die. We squander Nature's dearest gifts and best. Then fortitude grows feeble and distressed. And fails to give response to honor's cry.

To him who holds himself for duty's call, Nor shirks the truth that duty has to speak, Who seizes to take his place among the weak, But turns him to his task, though great or small; Who shrinks not when the darkest shadows fall— To him comes peace that others vainly seek.

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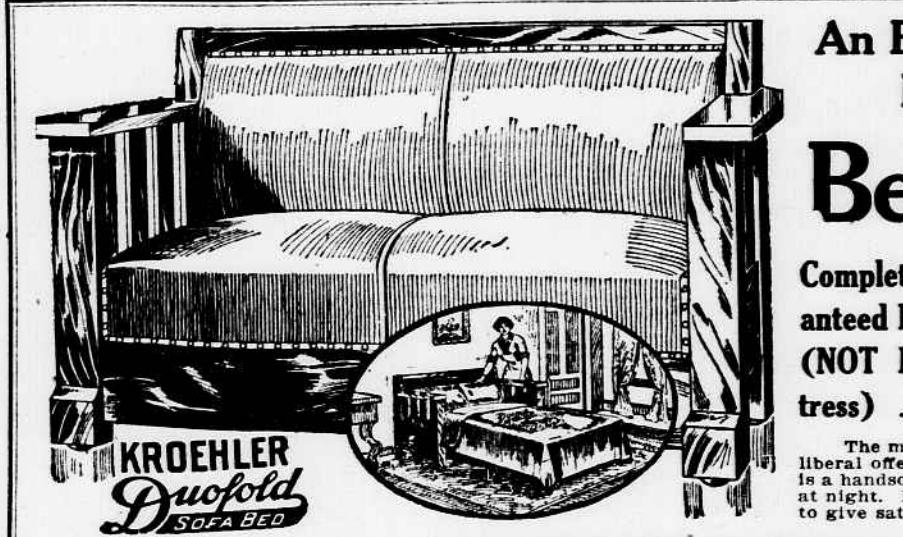
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